

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CEBU 0046

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (GOULD, FRANK)

SUBJECT: W/W FRANK GOULD

REF: STATE 151119, MANILA 8876, CEBU 44 AND PREVIOUS

1. PAUL VAN BUREN, WHOSE REPLY QUOTED VERBATIM CEBU 37, POSSIBLY REFERRED TO CENTRAL MINDANAO COMMAND (CEMCOM), PHILIPPINE ARMY, WHICH BASED COTABATO CITY, WHEN HE SAID QUOTE 8 PERSONALLY SUSPECT CERTAIN ARMY UNQUOTE. IN RECENT DISCUSSION WITH CONOFF, COL. EDMUNDO ENRIQUEZ, WHO RECENTLY REASSIGNED FROM COTABATO TO CEBU (CEMCOM AND CEBU BASED THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION LARGELY OVERLAP) STATE HE HAD NOT HEARD OF NOR MET GOULD IN COTABATO AREA. ENRIQUEZ COMMENTED THAT OCCASIONALLY FOREIGN JOURNALISTS VISITING COTABATO DECLINED TO ACCEPT CEMCOM PROTECTION, IN WHICH CASE THEY TRAVELLED AT THEIR OWN RISK.

2. ADMIRAL ESPALDON REPLY CONTAINED CEBU 44 CONSISTENT WITH NEW ORLEANS NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT ENCLOSED WITH DEPT MAY 30 OM WHICH STATED GOULD HAD BEEN IN TAWITAWI AND ZAMBOANGA IN AUGUST (BEFORE TRAVELLING ON TO KIDAPAWAN AND DAVAO).

COMMENT: IMPLIED IN ENRIQUEZ COVERSATION AND IN EXCESSIVELY POLITE ESPALDON TELEGRAM IN WHICH HE ADDRESSES CEBU VICE CONSUL AS QUOTE YOUR EXCELLENCY UNQUOTE IS ATTITUDE THAT FOREIGN JOURNALISTS COVERING THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINE MUSLIM CONFLICT ARE INTERFERING IN PHILIPPINE INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THAT NO TEARS SHOULD BE SHED OVER THEM IFF THEY GET CAUGHT IN CROSSFIRE. CONSULATE CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT PHILIPPINE
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AUTHORITIES GENUINELY DO NOT KNOW GOULD'S WHEREABOUTS.

HOWEVER IT NOT BEYOND REALM OF POSSIBILITY THAT ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER MAY HAVE HAD SOME ROLE IN GOULD'S DEATH AND ARE NOW UNDERSTANDABLY SILENT ABOUT THEIR ACTIONS. VAN BUREN'S SUSPICIONS MAY WELL BE ALONG SAME LINES.

3. AS REPORTED CEBU 40 RIXHON DID NOT MEET GOULD IN SULU, BUT THEY MAY HAVE MET MANILA WHERE RIXHON APPARENTLY NOW BASED (SEE RIXHON-PRINGLE MEMCON OF JUNE 19, 1975) EMBASSY MAY WISH CONTACT RIXHON ABOUT POSSIBLE GOULD MEETING.

4. UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN RESEARCHER ARAM YENGOYAN TOLD DAVAO BPAO OF RUMORS THAT GOULD HAD MET FREQUENTLY WITH FORMER SENATOR AND OPPOSITION LEADER JOSE DIOKNO. CONSULATE HAS ADVISED EMBASSY IN ORDER THAT APPROPRIATE INQUIRIES CAN BE MADE.

5. SUMMARY: DESPITE EXTENSIVE REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION, LITTLE BEYOND VAGUE RUMORS CAN BE ASCERTAINED ABOUT GOULD'S WHEREABOUTS SINCE LAST SIGHTING IN DAVAO IN LATE SEPTEMBER 1974. IN VIEW COMMENT CONTAINED PARAGRAPH TWO CONSULATE INCREASINGLY CONVINCED THAT IF ANYONE KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED TO GOULD THE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE SUCH THAT INFORMATION WILL NOT BE FORTHCOMING THROUGH ORDINARY CONSULAR INQUIRIES. CONSULATE HOWEVER WILL OF COURSE CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE ALL LEADS AND REPORT THEM VIA UNCLASSIFIED TELEGRAM. ASIDE FROM WEEKLY CLASSIFIED POUCH CONSULATE'S CLASSIFIED COMMUNICATIONS EXTREMELY LIMITED. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED TO TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT WHEN SENDING ADDITIONAL MESSAGES ABOUT GOULD.
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